FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 2/11/69

Transmit the following in _____
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Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

ReBuairtel 2/4/69 directing Memphis to interview Rev. JAMES LAWSON.

Enclosed for the Bureau are 3 copies of an FD-302 reflecting interview of Rev. LAWSON on 2/11/69 at Memphis.

Information furnished by Rev. LAWSON regarding the transfer of the 2 Negro firemen and the Negro police officer from the fire station near the Lorraine Motel just prior to the murder of KING has been covered in Memphis LHM dated 11/21/68, which LHM also reflected the interview of [redacted] by Mr. J. HAROLD FLANNERY of the Justice Dept. LAWSON furnished no new information and it is not felt that this matter warrants further inquiry.

It is the opinion of the interviewing Agents that LAWSON is a dangerous rabble rousing individual not worthy of being considered a leader of any group. He openly admits distrust of the police and of the FBI. He admits to having no facts but does not seem embarrassed to openly advocate his theory that KING's murder resulted from a conspiracy. He mentioned the story that was told early in this investigation by JOHN MC FERREN regarding his having overheard a conversation in a local vegetable market which conversation would indicate that the market owner, [redacted] and persons from New Orleans were part of the murder conspiracy. As the Bureau is well aware, MC FERREN's story has been thoroughly investigated and has been found to be entirely without substance.

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(3) - Bureau (Encs. 3)
3 - Memphis (2 - 44-1987)
(1 - 170-98-Rev. JAMES M. LAWSON)
(6)

REC-76 44-38861-5557

FEB 13 1969

Approved: R. Lehmann
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

FEB 20 1969

LAWSON was advised that the Bureau would be most interested in receiving any additional information which might come into his possession. In view of LAWSON's attitude toward the Bureau, it is suggested that we initiate no further contact with LAWSON if it can possibly be avoided.